Lunara Bryndelion

! Attention !

This Hero Book contains many secrets that should not be revealed until it is time.

Do not read any of the entries within unless you have been instructed to do so!

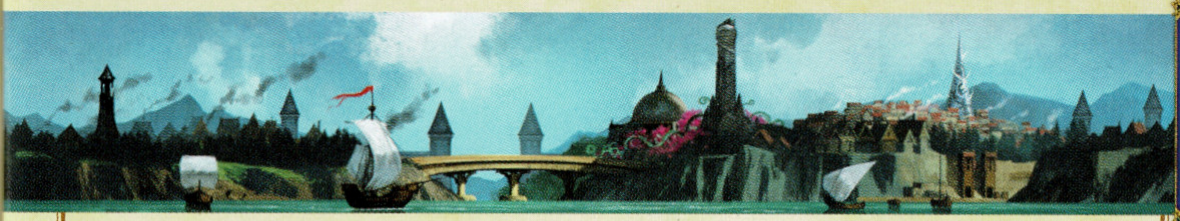
When you do read an entry, you may either read the contents aloud to the other players or keep them to yourself.

See "Reading Your Hero Book" on p. 26 of the Rules Reference for instructions on how to use this book.

Lunara's vision

"You were born into power and lost it all, your mother dead and you framed for her murder, and now you seek the guivrenscale shield to prove your innocence. You will now experience how those without power live their lives: in poverty and squalor. Is it a return to power you seek or a chance to empower others? In either case, as long as you are a hunted outlaw, you will have a chance to do neither. The palm of your hand will now bear the mark of aiun. Let it guide you in your search and give you wisdom. And once you find your shield, you will witness firsthand the age-old connection between aiun and guivren. But above all, you must now become a Keeper of the Breach."

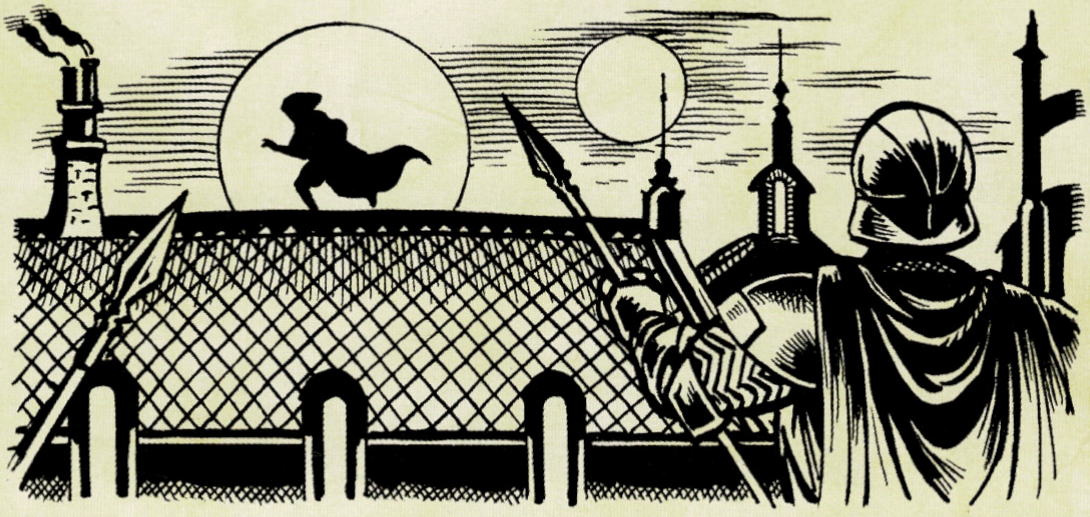
Gain Item card 129 "Boon of Aiun ★☆☆".



Level 1 · Exiled

Your exile has taken you to Runedale where there should be plenty of chances to find out about the Sable Crown and the whereabouts of your shield.

The nobility and the cosmographers must know of your murder charge by now. You take off the Bryndelion crests and put on a drab hood, so no one will know who you are. You spend time in underworld dens and places frequented by malcontents to hear rumors.



You are just about to return to the Dancing Ustrig when you hear a powerful voice bellow, "Star Lunara Bryndelion! On this day, in the name of the Republic of Benem, under Heaven all-seeing, you are under arrest!"

You turn around and see Star Marion Maddark, sister to your former squire and leader of your eldest sister's personal bodyguard, accompanied by several Bryndelion soldiers. After the murder of your mother, clearly your sister has assumed power and thinks exile is not good enough for you. You might even lose your head and tail. If you let them capture you, you will never find the shield which you need to prove your innocence!

"Sorry," you tell Star Marion, "I have some unfinished business."

You place your hand on the hilt of your saber. The soldiers behind Star Marion look at each other, worried. Many of them have served under your command, so they know you are formidable in battle.

"I do not wish to hurt you, Star Lunara."

"Oh, you would not."

Choose one:

A: *Fight your own family's troops.* » 34

B: *Run away from them.* » 02

C: *Create a distraction in the tavern in order to escape.* » 28

City Activities · Level 1

» **Once per City step** » *Heal the poor in Runedale.* » 10

» **Once only** » *Sabotage Star Marion's attempts at capturing you.* » 21

Level 2 • Longing For Rhaedon

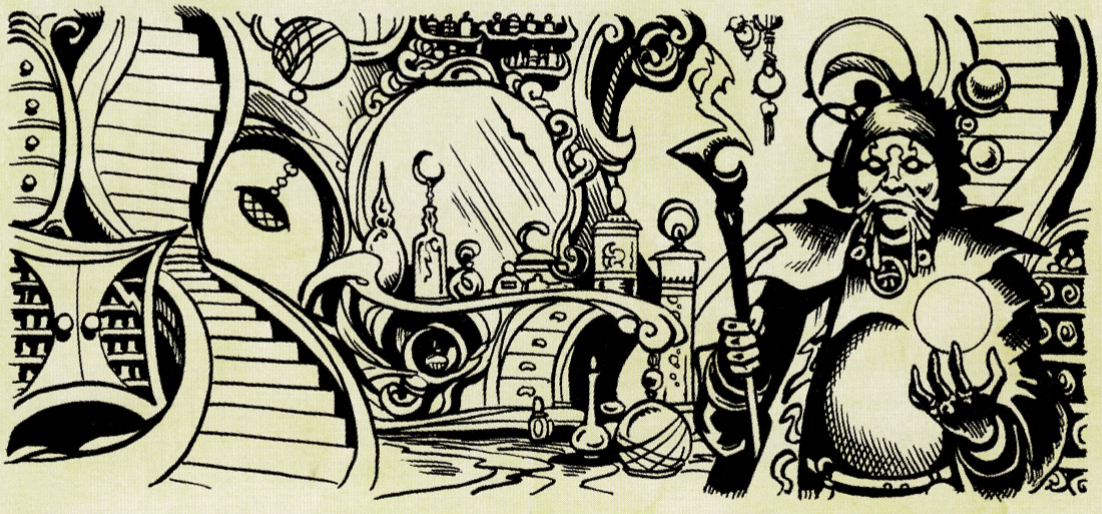
Runedale is farther from Orrery Hill than Ambergate, and so far you have evaded capture by your family. All but cousin Brynna, who has abandoned your house and become a priestess in Runedale, instead, so even she is no threat.

You managed to send your lover, Rhaedon Highwell, a letter in Ambergate, and another in Runedale. You cannot give him a return address, but you wanted to let him know you are safe. You miss him.

You have kept trying to make contacts with seedy types who might know something about the Sable Crown, but have had limited success, just rumors that turn out to be false.

You also have another problem; what if your sister manages to find you with magic? Your other sister, Drissy, gave you an illegal potion that would mask your aura, but said it would only work for a limited time.

You need more of it before the effect runs out. You look for some in the Round Market, but to no avail. The alchemists can't help you either. Then you hear Riabo's Reliquary might have what you need.



All the shop's walls seem to be floors, and all the floors, walls. The xi-noq shopkeeper levitates effortlessly, but your stomach turns trying to understand how gravity can pull patrons in different directions.

"How may I help you, my child?" buzzes Riabo.

You tell him what you are looking for.

"Oh, no, that would be illegal," it says aloud. Then, with a quiet voice, "Come back next week. Bring a blood crystal."

Great that it can help, but where are you going to get a blood crystal? The only people sure to have them are the demon worshipers!

Choose one:

- **A: Discard a Blood Crystal token** » *"No problem, I already have one."* » 06
- **B: with the Jade Tendril** » *Ask the Jade Tendril for a blood crystal.* » 27
- **C: Spend 6** » *Buy a blood crystal.* » 18
- **D:** *Attack the demon worshipers and take a blood crystal from them.* » 31

City Activities · Level 2

- **Once per City step** » *Heal the poor in Runedale.* » 10
- **Once per City step** » *Heal your injuries for free.* » 16
- **Once only** » *Secretly meet with Rhaedon.* » 08

Level 3 · Mr. Cartwright And Ms. Wheelwright

Rhaedon is out of town. He told you that some Highweld spies have procured some information on the Sable Crown, and he is meeting them to find out more.

He is supposed to meet you today at his room in the riverboat inn. You enter the inn, owned and operated by the Amethyst Order, and ask to see him.

"Your friend has not yet returned," speaks the hotelier, a young nihteegri dressed in the gray and purple robes of the Order. "But this letter arrived for you." He hands you a sealed envelope.

You are about to leave, when he calls you back, clearing his throat. "What about the bill?"

"Trust your stars, he will take care of it. You know he is good for it."

"Nay, I know it not."

"You do know who he is?" you ask.

"Aye. A Mr. Cartwright."

Of course, Rhaedon Highweld would not have given his real name. Nor can you give yours, seeing as you are wanted for murder. Obviously, the hotelier expects you to pay him now, but you do not have access to that kind of money anymore.

"I see. Well, he will return."

"And if he does not?"

"We will name that star when we see it," you say, unconvincingly, as you leave.

You hurry to your room at the Ravenous Guivren to read Rhaedon's letter.

My beloved,

You are the stars in my sky.

Highweld soldiers have found and captured those Sable Crown brigands who attacked you. I have your guivrenscale shield and am bringing it back to you. See you soon at the riverboat.

With passionate and loving kisses,

"Mr. Cartwright."

a.k.a. Your Love

He has found your shield! Fantastic! Just as you are wondering how to celebrate, there is a knock on the door. It is the landlady.

"Ms. Wheelwright," she says, addressing you by a similar alias. "Ms. Wheelwright, your rent is up."

"Right. How much?"

"It is eleven stars for the room and four more for the togrel stable."

"Ten stars? Really?"

"Aye, really."

Rhaedon did not bother to haggle and now he is not here to settle the debt.

Choose one:

A: Spend 10 ★ » *Pay the rent.* » 📖 **20**

B: *Work for the inn as a guard.* » 📖 **15**

C: *Steal from the rich to pay the rent.* » 📖 **03**

City Activities · Level 3

» **Once per City step** » *Heal the poor in Runedale.* » 📖 **10**

» **Once per City step** » *Heal your injuries for free.* » 📖 **16**

» **Once only** » *Do some detective work.* » 📖 **14**

Level 4 · The Mystery Deepens

For the past weeks, you have been trying to wrap your head around the news you received. Rhaedon managed to find your guivrenscale shield from the Sable Crown with the help of Highweld spies and soldiers. On his way back from wherever they were hiding, they were ambushed by the criminal organization The Shroud.

As far as you know, The Shroud and The Sable Crown are not in cahoots of any kind. The Shroud is an organization of ruthless assassins and criminals that operates all over Agemonia. The Sable Crown is a Benemite band of renegades and revolutionaries. Sure, they both prey on unsuspecting travelers, but that is where the similarities end.

So perhaps it was just a coincidence? The Shroud managed to kidnap a high-ranking member of Benem's leading family, and the shield was just a nice trinket for them.

But then, who murdered your mother and framed you for it with a copy of that same shield? And why? Was it the Highwelds? How would they know The Sable Crown stole it? And why would The Sable Crown tell anything to the Highwelds, who they are fighting against?

Something does not make sense here.

The most important thing right now is to save Rhaedon and your shield from The Shroud. Unfortunately, only The Shroud knows where their secret base is, and they are not very talkative about it.

You will have to make inquiries.

Choose one:

A: "Espionage" in your Hero Journal » *Use your spying skills.* **» 33**

B: "Loved by Beggars" in your Party Journal » *Ask some beggars.* **» 33**

C: with the Shroud » *Ask Tan Gunagill.* **» 33**

D: with the Sable Crown » *Ask Caillon.* **» 33**

E: Spend 5 » ** *Bribe lowlifes until you find out.* **» 33

F: *Beat up some lowlifes until someone speaks.* **» 11**

City Activities · Level 4

» Once per City step » *Heal the poor in Runedale.* **» 10**

» Once only » *Approach your old friend Ursula Gramask about the murder charge.* **» 01**

» Once only » *Gather information about the Shroud hideout.* **» 30**

So perhaps it was just a coincidence? The Shroud managed to kidnap a high-ranking member of Benem's leading family, and the shield was just a nice trinket for them.

But then, who murdered your mother and framed you for it with a copy of that same shield? And why? Was it the Highwelds? How would they know The Sable Crown stole it? And why would The Sable Crown tell anything to the Highwelds, who they are fighting against?

Something does not make sense here.

The most important thing right now is to save Rhaedon and your shield from The Shroud. Unfortunately, only The Shroud knows where their secret base is, and they are not very talkative about it.

You will have to make inquiries.

Choose one:
A: "Espionage" in your Hero Journal » *Use your spying skills.* **» 33**
B: "Loved by Beggars" in your Party Journal » *Ask some beggars.* **» 33**
C: with the Shroud » *Ask Tan Gunagill.* **» 33**
D: with the Sable Crown » *Ask Caillon.* **» 33**
E: Spend 5 » *Bribe lowlifes until you find out.* **» 33**
F: *Beat up some lowlifes until someone speaks.* **» 11**

City Activities · Level 4

» Once per City step » *Heal the poor in Runedale.* **» 10**

» Once only » *Approach your old friend Ursula Gramask about the murder charge.* **» 01**

» Once only » *Gather information about the Shroud hideout.* **» 30**

Level 5 • Crowns of Many Kinds

You have been too angry and confused to respond to Rhaedon's invitations. You know you must rescue your relationship, but you do not know how.

You do love him, or you thought you did, but the Sable Crown works against your families. But then, your family has outlawed you, and have sent Star Marion Maddark to take you back home to lose your head and tail. So maybe, by fighting the families, the Sable Crown is helping you stay alive? Confusing, indeed.

In the end, your heart aches for Rhaedon too much to ignore. You agree to meet him in the riverboat inn where he lives.

He is wearing his quothian silks again, every bit the perfectly groomed gentleman. There are cakes and wine on the table, candles are lit, and flowers decorate the room.

"Thank you for coming," he says. You have longed to hear that sweet voice again. But you must stay strong.

"Tell me everything," you say.

"The Sable Crown are not brigands or robbers."

"It sure felt like they robbed me."

"Not primarily robbers. We work for the betterment of all Benemites, to give a voice to the silent and food to the hungry."

"You are the son of the Supreme Arch-Magus! Your sister sits in the electoral college! If you want to feed the poor, just do it!"

"Aye, if it only were so easy. They are not part of the solution. They are part of the problem. They are the problem. How many times I've asked my mother to tax only those who can afford it! How often I've asked my sister to talk in the college about giving a vote to village councils. But to no avail. Alone, I cannot do it, but the commoners vastly outnumber the nobility, so I've recruited from the

poor, from the secret followers of the old pagan gods, from the foreigners, from the slaves, but from the nobility and the cosmographers also! Together we have a chance to help the people of Benem."

"By fighting against your own family."

"Aye, if need be. But I'm convinced they will see reason before it comes to that. Lunara, you have now seen how the common people live! Do you not wish to help them?

You are looking for the right words as a commotion starts on the upper deck. The door to the room is kicked in and a bunch of heavily armed nihteegri enter.

"Star Lunara Bryndelion! On this day, in the name of the Republic of Benem, under Heaven all-seeing, I bid you return to Orrery Hill!"

It is Star Marion Maddark, come to arrest you.

"Not so fast," you tell her, pulling out your guivrenscale shield. "This will prove my innocence. The one found under my mother was a forgery, placed there to frame me for the murder."

Star Marion motions for her soldiers to be on their guard as she moves closer to investigate.

"I see," she says, and ponders for a while. "This changes things."

"On that we are agreed."

"Star Lunara, there is something you should know. Your elder sisters have both been killed as well. As we knew you were nowhere near them, we suspected it to have been a different murderer, but perhaps it was the same one all along."

Your sisters? Dead, as well?

"As their daughters are not of age, that means you are Lady Lunara, the new Magus of House Bryndelion. If you are found not guilty, of course."

You, a magus? You do not even have magical training!

And you had hoped you would be less confused after today!

"My love, I am so sorry," Rhaedon says, and hugs you. "We will solve this. Together."

"Star Lunara, will you travel with me to Orrery Hill?" asks Star Marion. "I suppose there is no need to arrest you now."

Choose one:

A: Not ^ with the Sable Crown » *Become Lady Lunara and declare war on the Sable Crown and on Rhaedon.* » 25

B: *Become the leader of your house, but continue your relationship with Rhaedon in secret.* » 04

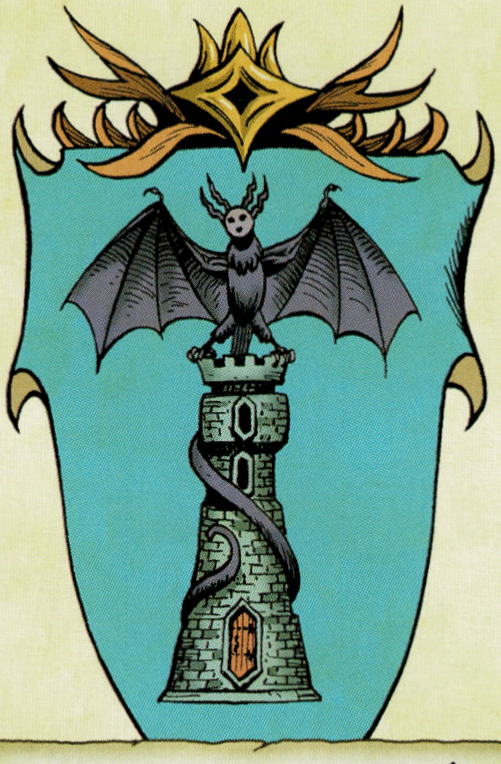
C: *Abandon your family and join the Sable Crown.* » 13

City Activities · Level 5

» **Once per City step** » *Heal the poor in Runedale.* » 10

» **Once only** » *Save Ursula Gramask.* » 05

» **Once only** » *Save Brynna Bryndelion.* » 17



House Bryndelion

Story Entries

01 Lunara and Ursula

You approach Gramask Castle and ask to see Ursula Gramask, giving the guard a password only she would recognize.

If you have Item card 130 "Bryndelion Shield ★★☆" » 12
If you have ^ with House Gramask » 12
Otherwise » 19

02 Flight of the Bryndelions

Instead of fighting your own family's troops, you would rather disappear. You scream, "Boo!" and pretend to draw your saber. Star Marion and her soldiers prepare to defend themselves.

But instead, you turn tail and run away from them as fast as possible. You do not yet know this city, but neither do they.

5 +2 SUCCESS » 23 | FAIL » 09

03 Take From the Rich

You put on your best clothes and find the nicest tavern in the city, in one of the beautiful glass-domed buildings surrounding Mazurak Plaza. The snake was a goddess worshiped by pagan nihteegri long ago, and many of these houses used to be temples. That is why this fancy tavern is called The Altar.

The guard at the door does not recognize you, but from your dress and demeanor they understand you are highborn and let you in. The place is classically decorated and lit with agura. You cannot afford to eat here, so you just order a goblet of their cheapest wine and sit back listening to the troubadour. It is already quite late and most of the patrons are intoxicated. Nearly all of them are nihteegri, of course, with the odd wealthy ignisaur or korallian tourist.

You observe a drunk nihteegri couple dressed in velvet and gold. They are boorish and loud, like serfs who have just struck it rich, not knowing how to act in civilized society. You observe them closely, and when the husband goes off to relieve himself, you strike up a conversation with the wife.

She is not interested in politics or cosmography, but gossip about the nobles does amuse her. Fortunately, you know plenty of that.

"Did you hear that Lady Bryndelion's daughter, Lunara, killed her own mother?" she says at one point. "My stars, I hope they catch her!"

"Aye, we all hope she gets justice," you reply.

As she pours you more wine, you make a move for the purse which her husband left on the table.

5 +2 (Tactics, Skirmisher skill +1)
SUCCESS » 32 | FAIL » 26

04 Secret Identity

You hold Rhaedon's hand, your tails intertwined, as you look at Star Marion with tears in your eyes.

"Star Marion, I must mourn the deaths of my sisters. I bid you return to Orrery Hill, tell my father to make arrangements for their funerals, and make sure their children are looked after. Once I have composed myself, I will take on the mantle of Lady Lunara, Magus of House Bryndelion. May the stars shine upon you."

"And you, my lady." Star Marion bows, and orders her soldiers to leave Rhaedon's room.

Again, you are alone with Rhaedon.

"This did not go how I pictured it," he says, bewildered.

"What do you think, Mister Bandit Leader?" you ask. "You think you can have a secret affair with the Magus of House Bryndelion?"

"Our affair has been a secret so far," he says.

"Come, my love. Let us light a candle for my sisters."

You walk together to the wharf called Anglers' Pier, between the fishing boats and mercantile ships. On the edge of one of the piers there is an open space. You take two wooden bowls and place a candle inside them. Once lit, you climb down the ladder to place them on the water where the current takes them to the sea.

Farewell, dear sisters.

Gain an Inspiration gem.
Write "Lady Lunara" in your Hero Journal.
Your party may gain +1 Reputation with the Sable Crown.

05 Ursula Needs Help

Your old friend Ursula Gramask is wanted by the Pennarks. You had assumed she had left town, but she has sent a messenger butterfly asking for your help.

"I need you to hide me - UG" the letter reads. You write her a reply and tell her to come to the Ravenous Guivren, disguised as a servant.

The next day she is there, wearing rags. "Lunara, it's me!" Before you have time to answer, Pennark soldiers enter the inn. They look around for anyone suspicious and spot Ursula.

"Alright, come with us," they order.

"What is the meaning of this?" you ask. "I am Star Lunara Bryndelion and this is my servant Otava."

They look at her suspiciously, but do not dare question a prominent knight like you.

Once the soldiers have left, Ursula thanks you from the bottom of her heart. You leave the inn with her and show her a good spot to hide in the tunnels below town.

Gain 8 ✪.

06 A Romantic Interlude

Some days later you enter Riabo's Reliquary again and hand it the blood crystal. Riabo gestures for you to follow it. You walk upon a winding staircase, worried you might fall when it turns against itself and your back points to the floor, but you stay on, as if the stairs really were below you. On the next staircase, you pass someone walking down it at a completely different angle to you.

Finally, you enter a small room with books on the walls and cakes and wine on a table in the middle. You sit down.

"So, you have the artifact?" you ask impatiently.

"No," Riabo says, "but I have something else."

What is this? Another betrayal? You turn around and see... Rhaedon!

"Lunara," he breathes, gliding into your arms.

You look into his eyes and kiss and embrace him. You have missed him so much; you have been so alone.

"Oh, Rhaedon."

"Riabo will leave you to it," Riabo says, and levitates off, closing the door behind him.

You hold each other for a long time, not saying anything.

Then your curiosity gets the better of you. "How did you find me? You don't have magic powers!"

"I have the power of being smart," he smiles. "I figured you would want to hide your tracks, and you would want to stay in Benem to find the shield. So, I told the peddlers of magical wares to keep an eye out for anyone of your description who wants to disappear."

"You clever man."

"Here, by the way," he says, and hands you a flask of the illegal masking potion. You down it in one go; no magus will find you now. "If you need more, Riabo has promised to help you. So, how are you going to prove your innocence?"

"I need to find the guivrenscale shield the Sable Crown stole," you tell him.

"The Sable Crown took it? Really?"

"They robbed our whole monorail car," you say.

"Well, let me ask if someone in my family can help."

"Don't you think they're looking for those brigands already?"

Rhaedon is lost in thought for a while. "Maybe you're right," he says.

Riabo knocks on the door. "Visitors," it says.

"I must go," Rhaedon says. "I have a room for us in one of the riverboat inns. Meet me there."

He climbs out through the window.

You lost your mother, were exiled by your father, and are hunted by your sister. But at least you have Rhaedon back.

Gain an Achievement gem and .

07 Escape from the Castle

You jump out the window and manage to run out of the castle before you are arrested.

4

08 Love Nest

You visit the riverboat inn where Rhaedon is staying. You spend the whole day making love, dining, and then making love again.

"You know what is one of the benefits of your exile?" Rhaedon asks.

"Nay, but please tell me."

"This way we need not worry about getting permission from your family."

You chuckle. "Aye, but your family would be even more disinclined to give us theirs."

"Maybe they need not know. I could get us a house here in Runedale. They would be none the wiser."

You kiss him, but you both know you cannot do that until you have proven your innocence.

Gain an Achievement gem .

09 Lunara Retreats

Star Marion manages to wound you grievously before you manage to get away and it is clear you must be even more careful in your search for answers.

4

10 Heal the Poor

You walk around the Northgate District and the beggar children soon surround you. They are hungry and many of them suffer from illnesses or festering wounds. You spend the day healing the poor with your aiun touch. They bless you in the names of the stars and the pagan goddesses.

Roll a Counter die and consult the following table:

0-2 »	*You are relieved not to find anyone who is seriously ill, and you feel good about any help you could give.*
3-5 »	*The poor wretches give you a pretty flower in gratitude.* **Gain a** .
7-8 »	*You heal a family of a virulent disease.* **Gain an Achievement gem** .
9-10 »	*A thankful old woman blesses you.* **Gain** .
⊘ »	*You manage to revive an old man who others thought dead.* **Gain an Inspiration gem** .

11 Beating Up Lowlifes

Wearing your drab cloak, you walk the alleys of Northgate District, looking for anyone who might know something. You grab them by the collar and threaten them if they do not speak. If they still do not speak, you hit them. Sometimes they fight back, but eventually they tell you what they know, which is usually nothing.

You continue until you have gathered the information you need.

5

If you have "Loved By Beggars" in your Party Journal, cross it out.
Write "Hated By Beggars" in your Party Journal.
» 33

12 Meeting With Ursula Gramask

You wait a while in the castle courtyard and are then escorted to the castle hall to meet with Ursula Gramask. She embraces you warmly.

"Heaven protect, dear friend," she says. "I am so sorry for the passing of your mother. And for you being framed for the murder. I know you loved her dearly. How can I help?"

Finally, someone sensible. She cannot clear you of the murder charges, since they are dealt with by Star Marion and House Bryndelion, but she does give you what help she can.

Gain 10 .

13 Outlaw

You throw the guivrenscale shield at Star Marion's feet.

"Star Marion, you tell my family I refuse to be the magus. My sister Galanna's eldest daughter Selenna is almost old enough. Let her inherit the title from her mother, with my father as her steward until she is of age. I have seen how the wretched live, and I accept it not. I renounce my birthright, and the whole rotten nobility. I invite you and Selenna Bryndelion to denounce it, too, and your soldiers to abandon their allegiance to the false beliefs they have been taught."

Rhaedon looks at you with love and admiration.

Star Marion does not. She is shocked. "Star Lunara, clearly the news has shocked you more than I thought. Have you forgotten the motto of your family? Loyalty before everything!"

"Nay, I have not forgotten it. But my loyalty should be to all Benemites, not just the nobility. Now, begone!"

When the soldiers have left the riverboat, you turn to Rhaedon. You tie your hands and tail around him, and kiss him long and passionately. "I want to join the Sable Crown!"

On this day the stars shine upon you once more.

Gain an Inspiration gem.
Your party may gain +1 Reputation with the Sable Crown.

14 Detective Work

The Shroud meets at the Pit, so you spend time there, listening to the right conversations and asking the rights questions.

6 +2
SUCCESS » 22 | FAIL » 29

15 Woman at Work

"Is there not some other way I could pay?" you ask the landlady.

"Please, Ms. Wheelwright," she says indignantly. "This is not that kind of tavern."

"Nay, that's not what I meant. It's just that... Could I work here?"

"Well, ever since our guard got drafted by the Gramasks, I could use someone to keep the rabble out."

"I'll do it!"

You have to spend all evening standing at the pier, making sure only the good kind of clients get in. A drunken knight, hardly your equal, berates you for not saying welcome loudly enough and you have to stop yourself from defending your honor. Later that night, you get vomit down your clothes as you carry a drunken sot out.

It is demeaning work; not proper for the likes of you. This is why you have serfs and soldiers.

It is hard to think of the stars or the shield or Rhaedon or your family when one has to bow and scrape to the customers.

Surely all of this could be dealt with by one powerful magicanism, but it would be much more expensive than having some low-life do it. A low-life like you.

After an exhausting evening, you go back inside the Ravenous Guivren. You endured it!

The landlady looks at you again. "You had better wash yourself down and get some sleep. Tomorrow is a new day!"

"What?" you ask, angrily. "You mean this was not enough?"

"Hardly! I pay my guards five silver moons a day. To pay off your debt, you would have to work for twenty-seven days, but by then, of course, your debt would have increased, if you keep living here..."

"Really?"

"Welcome to real life, Ms. Wheelwright," she says, and you can hear she knows it is not your true name.

Spend 2 ○ and gain an Injury card.

» 20

16 Sister Brynna

You have found your cousin Brynna Bryndelion has abandoned her title and given her lands to the Cult of the Fifth Eye. She lives in Runedale now as Sister Brynna.

You pay her a visit at the Temple of the Fifth Eye and she heals you for free. You remember how you used to practice fencing together as children, but she feels very strange to you now.

"May the ancient protect you, cousin," she says, smiling happily as you depart.

You mumble something in response, rolling your eyes.

Choose one:

A: Restore all your spent ○ and heal all your ▼ damage.

B: Discard all your Injury cards.

17 Save Brynna Bryndelion

Your cousin Brynna Bryndelion still lives in Runedale's Temple of the Fifth Eye. Perhaps the Pennarks have not yet realized who she is. She is too trusting of the ancients to have fled during the chaos of the conquest.

Yet, every minute she stays in Runedale, the danger to her intensifies. You must save your cousin, even if she has abandoned her title and given her lands to the cult!

You convince her and some of the other priests and priestesses to leave town, pretending to be going on an archeological expedition. You disguise yourself as their bodyguard.

You clear the gates before the Pennark guard yells, "Hey, wait just a star-shunned minute!"

You tell the cultists to run, but the guards are already cocking their crossbows.

▼ 4

Gain an Inspiration gem .

18 Lunara Pays the Dark Bishop

You approach the town palace of house Durgane, adorned with their symbols of a spider and the smaller of Agemonia's moons.

You ask to see Draewiss Durgane, who appears in a fine silken robe.

"Heaven protect," she says, not recognizing you.

"Dark Bishop," you say. "I am a demon worshiper like you and would like to buy a blood crystal."

"Good star, I have no idea what you are talking about."

"I can pay four stars."

"Six."

"Done."

» 06

19 Ursula Does Not Trust You.

You wait a while in the castle courtyard and are then escorted to a room. But it is not a fancy room for meetings between ladies. Soon more guards enter, and you realize they are about to disarm and capture you. You have to make a run for it!

6 +2 ◇ (Hook & Rope, Streetwise, or Shield +1 ◇)
SUCCESS » 07 | FAIL » 24

20 Bad News

Having taken care of your other matters, you return to the riverboat to finally see Rhaedon again.

You pay the landlady and tell her you are there to meet Mr. Cartwright.

"He still isn't here," she says, looking annoyed, "but there is another letter for you. You know, the city does have a post office, as well."

You take the letter. It has no seal and the handwriting is not Rhaedon's.

Highwelds and whomever it may concern,

We have captured Rhaedon Highweld. If you want him returned, unharmed, we want five thousand gold stars.

The Shroud

"Great Serpent!" you curse to yourself. Those star-shunned criminals have your shield and your lover, the keys to your future. Just when you thought your life could not get any worse.

21 Foiling Star Marion's Plans

You manage to find out where Star Marion is staying, and hide her soldiers' tabards. They now look like ordinary mercenaries and will lack the rights granted to the noble houses. Getting new uniforms should take some time and keep Star Marion off your back for a while...

Write "Star Marion Foiled" in your Hero Journal.

22 Good at Spying

You learn a thing or two about the Shroud.

Write "Espionage" in your Hero Journal.

23 Star Marion Bettered

You eventually get the better of Star Marion and her soldiers, but it is clear you must be even more careful in your search for answers.

Gain an Achievement gem.

24 Botched Escape

You jump out the window and run out of the castle while the guardsmen shoot arrows at you.

4

If you suffer any damage from this check, gain an Injury card.

25 Lady Lunara

You stand up to your full height, your tail upright, and your demeanor controlled.

"Star Marion, as the Lady Lunara, Magus of House Bryndelion, on this day, in the name of the Republic of Benem, under Heaven all-seeing, I charge you to capture the rebel Rhaedon Highweld, and bring him to justice."

The soldiers hesitate for a moment, but as Star Marion draws her weapon, so do they.

Rhaedon looks at you in shocked disappointment. "Nay, my love," he says, "tell me this is not happening. I thought you loved me!"

"The motto of our house is: Loyalty before everything," you tell him. "I must not let love blind me from my duty. I will declare war on the Sable Crown, and as magus I will do everything in my power to destroy that organization!"

With that, you tell Star Marion to bind Star Rhaedon and deliver him to the guardhouse for questioning. Soon, you will return to your home town of Orrery Hill, and rule.

Gain an Inspiration gem.
Write "Lady Lunara" in your Hero Journal.

26 A Bad Cutpurse

You quietly grab the purse without the woman noticing anything, but the returning husband does and he alerts the soldiers guarding The Altar. You make a run for it. At least you now have enough stars to pay the rent.

Spend 3.
Write "Wanted" in your Party Journal.
» 20

27 Lunara and the Dark Bishop

You approach the town palace of house Wrathclaw, adorned with their symbols of a spider and the smaller of Agemonia's moons.

There is a demon worshiping ceremony going on, conducted by none other than Dark Bishop Draewiss Wrathclaw herself.

You attend the ritual and feel exhilarated. Afterwards, while relaxing drinking wine and eating cakes, you ask the Dark Bishop for a blood crystal. She is happy to give one to you.

Gain .

» 06

28 Chaos at the Ustrig

You run inside the Dancing Ustrig and yell, "It's the city guard! They've come for you!" When Star Marion and her soldiers follow you in, they have to face a stampede of two dozen panicking students, cosmographers, cultists, pagans, serfs, writers and artists.

Meanwhile, you exit through the back door, into an alley, and out into the night. It is clear you must be even more careful in your search for answers.

Spend 2 ○.

29 Bad at Spying

You think you are quite subtle, but after a few visits, the boryot bouncer comes to throw you out!

▼ 3

30 Espionage

You spend time at the Pit, listening in on stories about Naedel Falls and the Shroud's secret hideout. You manage to find a down-on-her-luck criminal who often visits Naedel Falls, and try to convince her to help you out.

7 +2 ◇ (Venia is in your party +1◇, each ^ with the Shroud, +1◇)

SUCCESS » Write "Naedel Falls Assassin" in your Hero Journal.

FAIL » Spend 2 ○ and discard an Achievement gem.

31 Lunara vs the Jade Tendril

You find a warehouse where the demon worshipers keep their stolen goods and ritual paraphernalia. You kick the door in and catch some hooded acolytes unawares. Three of them attack you while the fourth starts to summon a demon.

You spot a blood crystal and grab it, hoping to avoid the cultists' blows until you get out of the building.

▼ 4

» 06

32 A Good Cutpurse

Taking the purse is so easy that you reach for the other purse as well. You put the valuables in your own bag and excuse yourself.

That was easy! You have enough to pay the rent and keep some for yourself.

Gain 4 ◇.

» 20

33 The Information

You find out the Shroud has its hideout behind the waterfalls in Naedel Falls. The hideout also has an even more secret area within. You might find Rhaedon or your shield there.

Was their boss trying to steal back the shield when they caught him? That makes no sense. The shield is invaluable to you, but only an expensive piece of armament for The Sable Crown. It has to be something else.

There has to be something you are not getting, but what?

If you have "Sided With the Sable Crown" in your Party Journal:

You try to find out more from those in the Shroud about how to enter the secret hold within the falls.

6 +2 (with the Shroud, +1)

SUCCESS » Write "Secret Hold" in your Hero Journal.

34 Fighting Your Own Troops

You are a trained knight, but so is Star Marion. You retreat into the alley next to the Ustrig so that her soldiers cannot surround you, and begin a desperate fight.

5 +2

SUCCESS » 23 | FAIL » 09